



# Idaho Crop & Livestock Producer News

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture

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*Dear Respondent:*

*This issue of the Idaho Crop and Livestock Producers' News covers the results of the December 2008 Bee and Honey Inquiry. Total Honey production, yield per colony and average price per pound are reported for Idaho and the U.S.*

*This release is sent to survey participants in appreciation for their time spent responding to the survey. For more information contact us at [nass-id@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-id@nass.usda.gov) or at 1-800-691-9987. Thank you for reporting and your continued support.*

*Sincerely,*

*William R. Meyer  
Director*

## Idaho Honey Production Decreased 5 Percent

Idaho honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 3.60 million pounds, a 5 percent decrease from 2007. Honey producing colonies are estimated at 90,000 colonies, down 2,000 colonies from last year. Yield per colony averaged 40 pounds, down one pound from 2007. Producer honey stocks were 1.44 million pounds on December 15, 2008, a decrease of 22 percent from the previous year. The average honey price per pound is \$1.42, up 27 cents from a year ago.

U.S. Honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 161 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. There were 2.30 million colonies producing honey in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 15 percent from the 60.7 pounds in 2007.

Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 50.4 million pounds on December 15, 2008, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2008 to 141.0 cents, up 31 percent from 107.7 cents in 2007. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2008 were up from the previous year for all color classes and marketing channels. Prices for the 2007 crop reflect honey sold in 2007 and 2008. Some 2007 crop honey was sold in 2008, which caused some revisions to the 2007 crop prices.

### Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2007-2008

Color Class	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>		<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>		<i>Cents Per Pounds</i>	
Water White, Extra White, White	103.0	138.6	172.8	192.4	104.6	141.2
Extra Light Amber	97.5	133.6	188.0	205.4	106.4	139.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	93.8	125.5	218.3	235.7	112.5	139.6
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	132.7	135.7	291.1	302.9	175.6	197.6
All Honey	99.9	134.0	204.6	219.7	107.7	141.0

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,  
and Value by State and United States, 2008<sup>1/</sup>**

State	Honey Producing Colonies <sup>2/</sup>	Yield Per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 <sup>3/</sup>	Average Price per Pound <sup>4/</sup>	Value of Production <sup>5/</sup>
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>--1,000 Pounds--</i>		<i>Cents</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
Alabama	9	66	594	214	186	1,105
Arizona	25	64	1,600	336	125	2,000
Arkansas	28	75	2,100	525	131	2,751
California	360	51	18,360	4,039	141	25,888
Colorado	27	45	1,215	656	150	1,823
Florida	150	79	11,850	1,304	130	15,405
Georgia	55	71	3,905	312	149	5,818
Hawaii	10	90	900	225	148	1,332
Idaho	90	40	3,600	1,440	142	5,112
Illinois	8	56	448	116	246	1,102
Indiana	6	67	402	129	161	647
Iowa	24	62	1,488	580	156	2,321
Kansas	10	61	610	128	152	927
Kentucky	4	39	156	27	236	368
Louisiana	29	77	2,233	246	133	2,970
Maine	7	42	294	79	150	441
Michigan	71	73	5,183	2,021	143	7,412
Minnesota	122	78	9,516	2,569	139	13,227
Mississippi	14	98	1,372	110	130	1,784
Missouri	11	53	583	152	178	1,038
Montana	134	70	9,380	4,596	137	12,851
Nebraska	36	67	2,412	1,254	142	3,425
Nevada	10	29	290	52	237	687
New Jersey	9	40	360	122	158	569
New Mexico	6	48	288	95	148	426
New York	50	70	3,500	1,260	150	5,250
North Carolina	12	52	624	137	212	1,323
North Dakota	390	90	35,100	8,424	135	47,385
Ohio	14	53	742	371	188	1,395
Oregon	50	43	2,150	1,097	148	3,182
Pennsylvania	23	48	1,104	276	165	1,822
South Dakota	225	95	21,375	11,970	134	28,643
Tennessee	7	61	427	149	204	871
Texas	77	64	4,928	1,380	134	6,604
Utah	28	48	1,344	242	156	2,097
Vermont	5	66	330	119	179	591
Virginia	6	42	252	45	218	549
Washington	41	44	1,804	722	150	2,706
West Virginia	6	43	258	49	198	511
Wisconsin	58	80	4,640	2,366	140	6,496
Wyoming	39	61	2,379	381	137	3,259
Other States <sup>6/ 7/</sup>	15	51	765	130	229	1,752
US <sup>7/ 8/</sup>	2,301	69.9	160,861	50,445	141	226,814

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State. 2/ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year. 3/ Stocks held by producers. 4/ Average price per pound based on expanded sales. 5/ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound. 6/ CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. 7/ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. 8/ Summation of States will not equal U.S. level value of production.

**A THANK YOU TO ALL IDAHO FARM AND RANCH OPERATORS**

Your cooperation in completing agricultural surveys from this office is greatly **APPRECIATED**. Accurate, useful estimates are vital in decision making. All estimates derived from these surveys, along with other pertinent agricultural data, are published in our regular series of releases. All NASS reports are available free of charge on the worldwide Internet. For access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). If you have any questions or require additional information, you may reach us toll free at 1-800-691-9987.